

January 25, 2016

U.S. Consulate General Marseille
Security Message for U.S. Citizens:
Strikes in France on January 26, 2016

According to media reports, multiple groups are planning labor actions across Paris and throughout France on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Two of the largest unions representing air traffic controllers in France have called upon their employees to strike, and airlines have been warned to reduce their flight schedules for the day. Significant disruptions (cancellations as well as delays) are to be anticipated on January 26, and potentially the following day as airlines clear backlogs. Travelers are advised to verify the status of their flight before leaving for the airport.

Across the public sector, employees at airports, hospitals, schools, and some government offices are also expected to strike, which may cause disruption to public services.

Taxi drivers are also expected to strike, with a “slow drive” operation announced between Orly and Roissy airports and Paris, beginning at 6:00am on the 26th. In addition, some taxi services have indicated they will operate by reservation only, and will not be circulating in the streets. The drivers are protesting the proliferation of chauffeur-driven vehicle services.

Rallies in support of the strike actions are expected near Porte Maillot (16th/17th district), the Ministry of Economy and Finance (4th district), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (7th district), the RER Port-Royal station (14th district), and the Invalides (7th district), with marches leading to the Montparnasse district (14th district).

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that demonstrations and large events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational. Avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Large public gatherings can affect all major incoming arteries to the city in which they occur. Demonstrations in one city have the potential to lead to additional public rallies or demonstrations in other locations around the city and country.

We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to access local media to stay abreast of developments, avoid demonstrations, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [France Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in France, located at 4, Avenue Gabriel, Paris, +33 (1) 43 12 22 22, 9:00am – 6:00pm Monday through Friday.
- After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +33 (1) 43 12 22 22.

Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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